

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 15095 121410Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9308

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15095

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT US XF
SUBJ: VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: (A) STATE 209160, (B) CAIRO 1444

1. IN MY LAST MEETING WITH FAHMY, I REFERRED TO OUR EARLIER TELECON RE HIS VIEW I SHOULD REMAIN IN EGYPT DURING HIS ABSENCE (ERF B) AND ASKED IF THIS REFLECTED SADAT'S VIEWS. I TOLD HIM QUITE FRANKLY THAT I WAS TROUBLED AT NOT BEING PRESENT DURING WASHINGTON TALKS, SINCE IT WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO CARRY ON MY FUNCTIONS HERE. MESSAGES ARE NEVER THE SAME AS PARTICIPATION AND GETTING FIRST-HAND "FEEL" OF THE CURRENT VIEWS IN WASHINGTON.

2. FAHMY SAID HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT, BUT NOTED BOTH HE AND I WERE AWARE OF THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS. IT WAS PERFECTLY AGREEABLE TO HIM IF I WERE CALLED BACK FOR THE TALKS. WHILE IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, HE COULD, OF COURSE, SEND MESSAGES DIRECTLY TO SADAT IN SPECIAL CYPHER. SADAT MIGHT, HOWEVER, WISH TO SEND A MESSAGE OR A REPLY TO EITHER
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PRESIDENT CARTER OR THE SECRETARY. SHOULD THAT DEVELOP, SADAT WOULD BE VERY DISTURBED IF I WERE NOT PRESENT. SADAT WOULD NOT WISH TO PASS ANY SUCH MESSAGE THROUGH DCM MATTHEWS ANY MORE SO THAN HE WOULD THROUGH MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD. WHEN I ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY SADAT SENDING SUCH MESSAGE TO FAHMY THROUGH SAME CHANNEL FAHMY USES SEND HIS MESSAGES FROM US, FAHMY NOTED THAT

HIS MESSAGES GO THROUGH MOHAMED RIAD, BUT THAT THE
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES DO NOT. NO ONE COULD BE SURE
WHAT MIGHT COME UP DURING TALKS. MAYBE THERE WOULD
BE NOTHING REQUIRING A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FROM HERE
AND THEN AGAIN THERE MIGHT BE A NEED FOR SUCH A
COMMUNICATION. HOWEVER, THE DECISION WAS UP TO US.
HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH CONCEPT OF MY GOING.

3. AS EVIDENT FROM ABOVE, LATEST TALK WITH FAHMY LEAVES
THE MATTER INCONCLUSIVE. I WOULD LIKE TO TALK PERSONALLY
TO SADAT ABOUT THE MATTER, BUT HE IS IN SUEZ CANAL AREA
AND WILL REMAIN THERE THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE UPCOMING
BAIRAM. IF I CAN OBTAIN SADAT'S AGREEMENT TO RETURN
FOR ABOUT A WEEK OR SO DURING THE TALKS, I HOPE THAT
DEPT WILL BE WILLING AUTHORIZE CONSULTATIONS DURING
PERIOD OF FAHMY'S VISIT. I MAY HAVE TO REQUEST AUTHORITY
AT SHORT NOTICE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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